



NEWS RELEASE

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JANUARY 8, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIFTH CO-DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN ST. JOSEPH METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a fifth co-defendant was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a northwest Missouri methamphetamine conspiracy.

Larry A. Pierce, 48, of Mound City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to 14 years in federal prison without parole for his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

On June 30, 2003, **Pierce** pleaded guilty to illegal possession of anhydrous ammonia, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Pierce** admitted that he was in possession of anhydrous ammonia on Feb. 1, 2002. **Pierce** also admitted that he was in possession of a Full Metal Jacket .22/.45 caliber Derringer over-under double-barrel handgun on Nov. 29, 2001. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Pierce** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm, a 1997 criminal felony conviction for distribution of methamphetamine, a 1980 criminal felony conviction for bank robbery and a 1975 criminal felony conviction for burglary.

Pierce is one of several co-defendants who have been convicted and sentenced for a role in the St. Joseph methamphetamine conspiracy.

David E. Skouby, 39, of St. Joseph, Mo., was sentenced to seven years in federal prison without parole. On June 5, 2003, **Skouby** pleaded guilty to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. He admitted that he aided and abetted others in the manufacture of methamphetamine between Jan. 26, 2002, and Feb. 2, 2002.

Harvey E. Smith, Jr., 26, of St. Joseph, was sentenced to seven years in federal prison without parole. On July 30, 2003, **Smith** pleaded guilty to possessing anhydrous ammonia on Feb. 1, 2002, knowing it would be used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Joseph B. Goin, Jr., 45, of St. Joseph, was sentenced to nine months in federal prison without parole. On Jan. 9, 2003, **Goin** pleaded guilty to intentionally maintaining a place of residence for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Goin** admitted that from Nov. 1, 2001, until Feb. 2, 2002, he housed a methamphetamine lab at his residence, located at 1814 ½ Jones St., in St. Joseph.

Mark E. Schenecker, 43, of St. Joseph, was sentenced to seven years and three months in federal prison without parole. On April 24, 2003, he pleaded guilty to possession of anhydrous ammonia knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Schenecker** admitted that he possessed the illegal chemical on Feb. 1, 2002.

On Sept. 26, 2003, **Scott Adkins**, 37, of St. Joseph, pleaded guilty to possessing glassware knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he possessed the glassware between Nov. 1, 2001, and Feb. 1, 2002. **Adkins** admitted that he utilized the Pyrex dishes in order to assist in the manufacture of methamphetamine at 1814 ½ Jones St., in St. Joseph.

On Nov. 6, 2003, **Charles J. Schenecker**, 67, of St. Joseph, pleaded guilty to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Buchanan County, Mo., Drug Strike Force and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow